

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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LAHONTAN HATCHERY BACK IN FULL OPERATION AFTER FISH WERE DESTROYED LAST SPRING

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Leslie L. Glasgow today announced that the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery in Nevada is back in full operation after all its fish were destroyed last spring because of an outbreak of whirling disease.

Last month, 200,000 healthy cutthroat trout were stocked in Pyramid, Summit and Walker Lakes in Nevada, from the hatchery operated by the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Hatchery facilities were completely disinfected following the discovery of whirling disease, so named because it often causes spasms in fish. The disease affects trout and salmon, but the sporozoan parasite which causes it does not affect people.

In ensuing months, the hatchery was resupplied with eggs from disease-free brood stock. During the rearing period, fish were carefully examined by Bureau biologists and no whirling disease was found.

"High quality fish production has been restored at Lahontan," said Dr. Glasgow, who heads Interior's programs for fish, wildlife, and parks.

The hatchery plans an additional stocking of 500,000 Lahontans next May. This rare fish is considered uniquely suited to the alkaline waters of Nevada and nearby States, such as the lakes stocked in October.

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